



**MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
April 2, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

**Present:** Mayor: Charlie Miner; Council: Deirdre Kvale, Michelle Jerde, Jahn Dyvik, and Tom Skjaret

**Staff Present:** City Administrator: Scott Weske; Public Works Director: Sean Diercks; and City Clerk: Jeanette Moeller

**Absent:** None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS - LONG LAKE NEWS, MEETING REVIEW AND UPDATES**

Mayor Miner offered the following comments and updates:

On Saturday, April 6, the Long Lake Area Chamber of Commerce will be presenting their annual "Person of the Year" award to April Wysocki, owner of the Country Cake Cupboard. The celebration will be held at Burl Oaks Golf Club in Minnetrista. Mayor Miner congratulated Ms. Wysocki on her award.

The Long Lake Firefighters' Relief Association will be holding their annual All You Can Eat Pancakes & French Toast Breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, April 14 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The event information has been sent out via the Listserv and is on the City's website.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Skjaret, to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The Consent Agenda consisted of:

- A. Approve Minutes of March 19, 2019 City Council Meeting
- B. Approve Vendor Claims and Payroll
- C. Authorize the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Unit to issue a Seasonal Use Permit to the Long Lake Rowing Crew for Use of Long Lake in 2019 (Consistent w/Updated Conditional Use Permit)
- D. Approve Issuance of a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On Sale Liquor License for the Church of St. George to Allow the Sale/Service of Alcoholic Beverages During the Church's 2019 Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Saturday, May 4, 2019
- E. Approve Issuance of a 1 to 4 Day Temporary On Sale Liquor License for the Church of St. George to Allow the Sale/Service of Alcoholic Beverages During Receptions Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesthood of Fr. Mark Juettner on Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19, 2019

*A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.  
Ayes: all.*

## **OPEN CORRESPONDENCE**

No one appeared to address the City Council during Open Correspondence.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Legislative Update From Minnesota State Senator David Osmek (District 33)**

Senator Osmek noted that although he tries to make a habit of visiting with the City Councils in his jurisdiction once a year, when he became part of the majority in 2017, he also became incredibly busy and is now catching up on his City Council meetings. Senator Osmek shared the following updates on legislative activities:

He showed the Council a bill Representative Hertaus has proposed which would provide a funding mechanism for cities who are currently not receiving Local Government Aid (LGA) to begin doing so under a formula based on a city's population. Under the formula proposed, Long Lake would be eligible to receive a little over \$76,000 in LGA. Senator Osmek reflected that he thinks the current formula is set up unfairly as it benefits larger cities with larger industrial bases.

On Thursday, the legislature will be hearing Senator Osmek's distracted driving bill. The components of the bill would be to put into law that every driver's education program includes distracted driving education; to significantly increase penalties for texting while driving; and to increase penalties for non-hands-free cell phone use while driving to be similar to penalties for drunk driving.

Senator Osmek explained that he had voted against bills proposed last year and this year to address the rise of opioid usage because while does not debate the issue of the opioid crisis, he believes programs should be funded through the state's general fund rather than through creating a new licensure or increasing licensure fees thereby passing costs onto those who pay health care bills.

He indicated he is the Chair of the Energy and Utilities committee, which saw an omnibus bill for finance passed with strong bipartisan support. The bill included language addressing community solar gardens.

Mayor Miner advised that he had submitted a letter of support to Representative Hertaus in response to his pending legislation. He also asked whether Senator Osmek was involved in any upcoming Highway 12 safety improvement funding initiatives.

Senator Osmek indicated that Highway 12 improvements were funded through a bonding bill in 2017. A distracted driving press conference will be held tomorrow in Independence, and currently there is consideration of installing a jersey wall barrier through the corridor from County Road 92 to Delano. The ongoing level of traffic on the roadway is such that if distracted driving or an incident causes a driver to cross over the middle line, there's no break in the stream of traffic.

Senator Osmek further responded to questions from Mayor Miner regarding the status of a bill moving through the senate which would impact cities as they hire contractors and issue RFPs; and regarding legislation that would place a fee cap on what cities can charge for installation of microcell infrastructure on light poles in right of way. Senator Osmek commented on the reduced size of microcell and 5G technology, noting that 5G download speed could make cable obsolete as more individuals choose to get their viewing content online.

Council member Skjaret commented favorably on the bipartisan commitment to LGA funding legislation, and to imposing more significant fines and penalties for distracted driving. He voiced concern regarding funding assistance for hospitals particularly outside the metropolitan area; and noted he did not understand why Minnesota is the only state that has not taken advantage of federal funding available for elections system security improvements. He further added that he was happy to see that the hearings would be held on proposed gun legislation, explaining that hearings were the right thing to do regardless of outcome.

Senator Osmek thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak, and offered a promise not to make it another two years before he returns to visit again.

**Approve Revised Job Description for Full-Time Public Works Maintenance Worker Position and Authorize Staff to Advertise for the Position**

Administrator Weske reported that as a follow up to discussion of this item in the work session held prior to the regular Council meeting, staff is requesting Council consider approving an updated job description for the position of full-time Public Works Maintenance Worker. As the position description had not been updated since 2006, staff felt that updating of the description was warranted prior to advertising. Staff is also requesting Council consider granting authorization for the posting of a position announcement to advertise for the hiring of a fourth full-time Public Works Maintenance Worker employee.

*A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Jerde, to approve the job description for the Public Works Maintenance Worker, Full-Time position dated March 2019; and to authorize staff to advertise the position announcement for a full time-Public Works Maintenance Worker employee, and allow city staff to conduct the interview and selection process, with the final candidate to be appointed by the City Council in May 2019.*

Council member Dyvik noted that during the work session discussion of this item a typo was found in the position description that would need to be corrected.

City Clerk Moeller indicated she would resolve the typo prior to posting.

*Ayes: all.*

**Consider Authorizing Staff to Purchase Lawn Care Maintenance Equipment**

Public Works Director Diercks indicated that for years, the City has contracted with lawn service companies to provide lawn care for City grounds at an annual cost of approximately \$15,000. In the last year or so, Public Works staff have come to the conclusion that moving lawn mowing and maintenance in-house would result in a much better appearance for the City's parks and facilities, as staff would be in control of the mowing schedule on a daily basis while taking precipitation, weather conditions, and growth factors into account. Bringing on a fourth full-time Public Works employee will permit the Department to take on the lawn maintenance work. In preparation for doing so, staff is requesting the Council consider authorizing the purchase of commercial grade lawn mower(s), bagger, and trimmers to allow the Public Works Department to perform the lawn care work in-house. Staff will research pricing and brands to meet the needs of the work and financially not exceed the amount allocated by the Council. Administrator Weske added that staff has recently had good success in researching and finding used equipment, and staff will be looking at slightly used equipment as well when pricing options for the lawn care work.

Council member Dyvik noted that the estimated cost of the equipment purchase proposal is the same as one year of contracting the lawn service out, and while bringing lawn care in-house may be a better option for attractiveness, he reflected that there is a long-term cost savings to be realized.

Diercks responded to Council member questions regarding the availability of a trailer for hauling lawn equipment; and how weed control and fertilizing would be addressed.

*A motion was made by Dyvik, seconded by Jerde, to authorize City staff to purchase lawn care maintenance equipment in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00. Ayes: all.*

**Discussion: Donation Request for Installation of Memorial Plaque on Hardin Park Shelter**

Diercks recalled that the City has a Park Bench Donation Program whereby an individual can purchase and memorialize a park bench to be placed in an agreed upon location at a cost of \$1,500. Recently a resident had come to City Hall to inquire whether he could memorialize the picnic shelter at Hardin Park, wondering whether the City would consider placing a memorial plaque on one of the beams in the shelter. Staff thought the request was important enough to bring before the Council for their feedback. Diercks displayed a photo of the Hardin Park shelter to provide context to the discussion.

Weske added that the Hardin Park shelter had been constructed by the Public Works Department, and with materials and labor, the approximate cost of the shelter would have likely been close to \$10,000.

Moeller clarified that the resident's first choice would be to purchase a memorial plaque for the Hardin Park shelter, but if that option was unavailable, the resident would be purchasing a park bench.

Dan MacDonald, 335 Russell Lane, interjected that there is a lot of area on the structure's beams that could be shared.

Weske replied that staff had discussed the space available, realizing that installation of one plaque may lead to requests for others to be installed in park shelters.

Council and staff discussed the resident's request and explored alternative options that could be available for installing a plaque on the shelter. It was also noted that the City intends to construct a similar shelter in Dexter Park as well. Weske recommended that Council consider making a motion to establish dollar amounts for alternative plaque options.

*A motion was made by Skjaret, seconded by Dyvik, to offer a program where residents can purchase a plaque to exclusively memorialize a shelter for a cost of \$5,000; can purchase a plaque to non-exclusively memorialize a shelter for a cost of \$750; or may purchase and memorialize a park bench through the Park Bench Donation Program. Ayes: all.*

Diercks advised that the shelter to be installed in Dexter Park would be close in design to the Hardin Park shelter, and the shelter construction work would begin once Eureka Construction has completed the concrete pad for the shelter site. Diercks had recently met with Eureka, and they are looking at installing the concrete pad in the next month. They also have an ambitious timeline for completing cleanup of Wurzer Trail.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Updates From Public Works –** Diercks provided the following updates:

The first construction meeting of the season for continuation of Wayzata Boulevard W Phase 2 will be held next Tuesday. From what he has gathered so far, construction will begin with the realignment of Old Long Lake Road and at the east end by the Luce Line Bridge. Depending on weather, the contractor may begin mobilizing the week after next. Road restrictions are currently in effect, but they do not impact the County road.

In the area of development on Old Long Lake Road, 80 feet of watermain will have to be extended. Staff has been visiting the subdivision job site to assure a fire access road is maintained during construction, but doing so has been a challenge.

As of last fall, the timeline for completion of Phase 2 construction targeted work ending by July 4. There may be one more closure of Wayzata Boulevard W to bring some stormwater lines across the roadway; however, they are looking at options to complete the work without a closure. Diercks confirmed he believes the misplaced electric poles will be removed in the near future.

For the Phase 1 landscaping project, Diercks will be meeting with the project contractor to fine tune the placement of some plantings around the monuments.

Council member Skjaret asked Diercks to follow up with Eureka Construction to request they grind some stumps they previously missed along Wurzer Trail as they complete their cleanup work. Diercks stated he could meet with Council member Skjaret on site to view the stumps mentioned.

**Concern Regarding Message of High Density for Virginia Avenue –** Council member Kvale had spoken with a resident of Virginia Avenue who had met with Council members previously and was informed the Council's vision for the area is high density development. The resident was understandably uncomfortable having heard this. Council member Dyvik replied that he had heard the resident was being harassed by parties interested in the site and had invited her to meet with himself and Mayor Miner to hear her concerns. A pleasant discussion was had, and the resident was clear that she would not be changing her mind and her property will not be for sale. They had specifically informed the resident they were not meeting to change her mind and they respected her position. Both he and Mayor Miner offered assurances that they did not use the term high density in the conversation. It was conveyed multiple times during their meeting that if she wishes to remain at her property, Council members respect that. Council member Kvale advised that the message the resident had heard was that high density is proposed for her property and the surrounding area.

**Carp Biomass Removal –** Council member Dyvik had spoken with Cassy Ordway regarding the LLWA's attempts at scheduling a carp biomass removal. Carp movements will continue to be monitored and an open water biomass removal will be undertaken if conditions are right to do so successfully. If not, they may wait until next winter.

**LLWA Educational Summit –** Council member Dyvik reported that the LLWA will be hosting an educational summit on April 25 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Woodhill Red Barn. Light food, drink and a cash bar will be available, and speakers will be presenting on aquatic invasive species.

**Pet Waste Reminder –** Council member Skjaret reminded dog owners to please pick up after their pet when out walking their dogs. Council member Dyvik recalled that some cities employ waste receptacles with baggie dispensers for that purpose. Council member Skjaret noted that previous Councils had been opposed to purchasing those receptacles, but he would be in favor of anything to

help keep parks and trails clean of pet waste. Diercks added that trash cans along trails and in parks can get very well filled with dog poop.

**Planning and Zoning Updates** – Moeller indicated that the next Council meeting agenda will include items for consideration of a new PUD ordinance intended to repeal and replace the existing PUD zoning ordinance section, along with a Concept PUD application for a proposed subdivision of privately owned lots on Symes Street and Martha Lane (the Brickley properties).

**Event Parking Request** – Moeller reported that the Orono Lions have submitted a Special Event Permit application to host a new event, the Orono Lions Flea Market, on Saturdays in late April through the end of June. The flea market would take place on the grounds of the Pioneer Museum. Though parking will be available on the Museum grounds, to plan for event attendance, the Orono Lions Club is seeking permission from the City to use the City Hall parking lot and vacant Virginia Avenue parcel to accommodate off-site parking. They have also already obtained permission from Lake Community Bank for use of their lot as an off-site parking location for market days. Staff supports the parking request for use of City property, with conditions to be applied to use of the Virginia Avenue lot to assure the site is not used in wet conditions and that event staff must be available to direct parking and pedestrian traffic. If there would be no objection by the Council, staff would prepare a letter of permission granting the Orono Lions Club's request to use City Hall and the vacant Virginia Avenue lot for off-site parking. Council members spoke favorably of the request and the proposed event. Moeller explained that while there was some brief discussion of the former BP station site as an off-site parking location, with the property now under City ownership and responsibility, and with plans for abatement of site conditions and demolition in the works, staff would be unable to recommend permitting use of the site at this time.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Hearing no objection, Mayor Miner adjourned the meeting by general consent at 7:40 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanette Moeller  
City Clerk